

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASHA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:BTRA

SUBJECT:LAW FIRM REPRESENTATIVE TRAVEL TO IVORY COAST

1. EMMERSON DUNCAN AND HUNT TALMAGE OF LAW FIRM DUNCAN, ALLEN AND MITCHELL CALLED ON AF/W DIRECTOR JULY 15 TO DISCUSS FIRM'S INTEREST IN OPENING OFFICE IN ABIDJAN AS BASE FOR OPERATIONS IN IVORY COAST AND POSSIBLY OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. TALMAGE WOULD HEAD PROPOSED OFFICE.
2. FIRM NOW HAS OFFICE IN KINSHASHA, ZAIRE, AND TALMAGE, (WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE IN BEIRUT LAW OFFICE) HAS ALREADY PAID EXPLORATORY VISIT TO ABIDJAN WHERE HE MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICER. TALMAGE BELIEVES FIRM MAY ENCOUNTER SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULTY IN IVORY COAST THAN EXPERIENCED IN ZAIRE OBTAINING GOVERNMENT PERMISSION TO OPERATE AS "CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE," AND REQUESTED DEPT'S ADVICE RE PROCEDURES AND USEFUL CONTACTS.

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3. WE SUMMARIZED IVORY COAST CURRENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS SITUATIONS. WE ENCOURAGED TALMAGE TO CALL ON IVORY COAST EMBASSY, IBRD, OPIC, AND EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, AND SUGGESTED FIRM GET IN TOUCH WITH IVORY COAST EMBASSY FINANCIAL COUNSELOR IN NEW YORK.

4. TALMAGE PLANS VISIT ABIDJAN AGAIN FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST AND WILL ASK EMBASSY FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE IVORY COAST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH VIEW TO APPLYING FOR PERMISSION TO DO BUSINESS.

5. FYI. AF/C CONFIRMS FIRM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN KINSHASA SINCE EARLY 1970'S AND HAS EXCELLENT REPUTATION WITH EMBASSY AND AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. END FYI.

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